



# Christ Lutheran Church

## Christ Church Comments **✝ September 2023**

### **Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**

225 E. Elm Avenue  
Monroe, MI 48162  
734.241.4554

**Pastor:**  
davidhively@gmail.com

**New - Website:**  
christmonroe.com

**Facebook:**  
Christ Lutheran Church—Monroe,  
MI

**Secretary: Karen**  
secretaryonelm@sbcglobal.net

**Licensed Lay Minister**  
**Wayne Butts**  
rwbutts@chartermi.net

**Interim Youth Family Ministry  
Coordinator**

**Carolyn Gardetto**  
cgardetto7@comcast.net

**Newsletter:**  
secretaryonelm@sbcglobal.net

Sometimes a song comes along and captures your imagination. That happened to me recently with Sing Over Me. If you are reading the digital version of the newsletter, [you can click here to listen to it](#). I imagine it as one of those songs of lament and trust that would have found its way into the Bible had it been written a few thousand years earlier. As I've been listening to it on repeat, I've been thinking a lot about God's promise that we are never alone in any of the challenges that we face in this life.

The book of Isaiah, chapter 41, verse 10, resonates with powerful words: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." This verse is like a soothing balm for the weary soul, reminding us that God's unwavering presence is our constant companion, even in the face of adversity.

### **Step 1: Embrace the Promise:**

In the same vein, let's pause and reflect on the significance of these words. Have you ever felt overwhelmed by challenges? Maybe you're navigating through a difficult situation right now. It's easy to feel lost or discouraged, but take heart! Embrace the promise that God is right there with you, extending a hand of strength and support. In moments of doubt, remember that you are never alone on this journey.

## Step 2: Seek Refuge in Prayer:

Let's explore a practical step that can ground us in God's promise—prayer. Think of prayer as a heart-to-heart conversation with the Divine. When we pour out our worries, hopes, and fears to God, we create a space for holy presence to envelop us. In those moments of vulnerability, we find solace, clarity, and the reassurance that God's love surrounds us. Just like a child seeking comfort in a parent's embrace, let us seek refuge in prayer, knowing that God listens and responds.

## Step 3: Cultivate Community:

Life's challenges can sometimes feel isolating, but we are designed to thrive in connection with others. In times of difficulty, reach out to your church family, friends, or mentors. Share your journey, and allow others to walk alongside you. As a community, we can embody God's promise by offering a listening ear, a helping hand, and a heart full of compassion. Through genuine connections, we become vessels of God's love, reminding each other that God's presence is steadfast, even when the storm rages.

As we step into fall, a new school year, and a new chapter of our lives together we trust that God is with us in all circumstances.

**Embrace the Promise:** Lean into the assurance that God is with you in every circumstance. Let this truth be a source of strength and courage.

**Seek Refuge in Prayer:** Engage in heartfelt conversations with God. Pour out your concerns, hopes, and dreams, and allow God's presence to bring comfort and clarity.

**Cultivate Community:** Reach out to your church family and friends. Share your experiences, and offer support to others facing challenges. Together, we can embody God's promise of presence and love.

Peace,

*Pastor David*



**The just shall live by faith...Romans 1:17**

### **HAVE YOU HAD A CHANGE OF ADDRESS?**

Please notify the church office with the details of your new address, **if you have moved, or have a new phone number, or are vacationing for an extended period of time.** This helps save postage on returned mail. All church contact information is found on page one.

**The website address for  
Christ Lutheran Church is:**

**[christmonroe.com](http://christmonroe.com)**



A sincere thank you to the 23 adult volunteers and 8 teen assistants that worked so patiently and diligently to provide a memorable VBS experience for our children. Twenty-five kids had a lot of fun with their friends playing games, making crafts, singing songs, attending story times, socializing during snack times and learning about our always-loving God.

Your generous donation of time, energy, and supplies is truly appreciated and a blessing to all.



**Family Friendly Event!**

# **Not So Scary Halloween Party**

**Friday, October 27, 2023**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Bring your already carved pumpkin to enter into a contest!**  
*Prize awarded for most creative family submission*

**Play a Game! Make a Craft! Gather Candy!**  
**Pizza, salad, donuts and cider will be served**  
**Walk through the church and see all the decorations!**

**Please RSVP to Carolyn Gardetto**  
**[cgardetto7@comcast.net](mailto:cgardetto7@comcast.net)**

**Party courtesy of the CLC Baptismal Team**



## News from around the church



Children's Church - During Sunday Worship  
Starting September 10th

### Fall Confirmation Kick-off Meeting

Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> @ 10:45 a.m. Light refreshments will be served! Please meet in the Fellowship Hall



Choir is back!  
Rehearsals begin  
September 6th at 6:30



The **Book Club** meets at June Coyne's on September 21 at 1:00. "Windswept" by Annabel Abbs

## Scripture Readers

Thanks to Carol Miller for organizing!

Sept. 3 Geof Oetjens

Sept. 10 Hope Link

Sept. 17 Patrick Lewis

Sept. 24 Ben Garman

## Ushers

Thanks to Patrick Lewis for organizing!

Sept. 3 Geof Oetjens

Sept. 10 Jim or Mary Jackel

Sept. 17 Patrick Lewis

Sept. 24 Gary Huepenbecker

## Assisting Minister

Thanks to Rusty Ward for organizing!

Sept. 3 TBD

Sept. 10 Jim Jackel

Sept. 17 Wayne Butts

Sept. 24 Rusty Ward

## CURRENT FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Summary Operating Statement

	July 2023		YTD 2023	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Operating income	\$ 18,286	\$ 16,865	\$ 107,172	\$ 122,749
Operating expense	15,929	16,843	118,034	117,001
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 2,357	\$ 22	\$ (10,862)	\$ 5,748

This month we paid everything and had a little surplus. Our expenses for the year has been greater than the income we have received for our general operating budget. We have decreased this amount by another \$2355 this month.